

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1084 Session of
1997

INTRODUCED BY GREENLEAF, O'PAKE, GERLACH, HART, LEMMOND, WAGNER,
RHOADES, SLOCUM, TARTAGLIONE AND TOMLINSON,
SEPTEMBER 11, 1997

REFERRED TO AGING AND YOUTH, SEPTEMBER 11, 1997

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, prohibiting false reporting of child
3 abuse; and imposing a penalty.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Title 18 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
7 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

8 § 4914. False reporting of child abuse.

9 (a) Offense.--A person who knowingly and willfully makes a
10 false report of child abuse to a law enforcement officer or
11 under 23 Pa.C.S. Ch. 63 (relating to child protective services),
12 or who causes, encourages or advises another person to make a
13 false report of child abuse is guilty of a misdemeanor of the
14 second degree.

15 (b) Damages.--Nothing in this section shall prohibit a
16 person who is falsely accused of child abuse from bringing a
17 civil action to recover reasonable money damages from the person
18 who violated subsection (a), including all costs and attorney

1 fees incurred in defending himself from the false accusation.

2 (c) Definition.--As used in this section, the term "child

3 abuse" shall have the meaning given to it in 23 Pa.C.S. §

4 6303(b)(1) (relating to definitions).

5 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.